#### LAW OFFICES OF THOMAS K. CROWE, P.C.

2300 M STREET, N.W. SUITE 800 WASHINGTON, D.C. 20037

TELEPHONE (202) 973-2890 FAX (202) 973-2891 E-MAIL firm@tkcrowe.com

February 21, 2002

**BY HAND** 

RECEIVED

William F. Caton Acting Secretary Federal Communications Commission 445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, S.W. Washington, D.C. 20554 FEB 2 8 2002

SPINAL COMMENSCATIONS COMMISCION OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Re:

Request for Special Temporary Authority

for the Transfer of Control of Interoute Wholesale, Inc.

from Interoute Telecommunications, Inc. to Venture Telecom, LLC

Dear Mr. Caton:

Venture Telecom, LLC ("Venture"), by its undersigned counsed, and pursuant to Section 214 of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended, 47 U.S.C. § 2114, hereby requests expedited Special Temporary Authority ("STA") for the transfer of control of Interoute Wholesale, Inc. ("IWI") from Interoute Telecommunications, Inc. ("Interoute") to Wenture. Venture respectfully requests that the Commission grant this STA request as soon as possible.

As detailed in the underlying Application for Consent to Transfer Control ("Application") filed on November 14, 2001 (attached as an Exhibit), Venture is a limited liability company organized under the laws of the State of Delaware, with principal offices located at 3851 Holcomb Bridge Road, Suite 200, Norcross, GA 30092. Information concerning Venture's legal, technical and financial qualifications to provide service was submitted with Venture's application for Section 214 authorization and is therefore already a matter of record before the Commission. Interoute is a privately-held Delaware corporation with principal offices located at 22 Cortlandt Street, 33rd Floor, New York, NY 10007. Information concerning Interoute's legal, technical and financial qualifications to provide service was submitted with Interoute's application for Section 214 authorization and is therefore already a matter of record before the FCC. IWI is a privately-held

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>Overseas Common Carrier Section 214 Applications Actions Taken, *Public Nottice*, DA 01-1726, 2001 FCC Lexis 3886 (July 19, 2001); and Overseas Common Carrier Section 214 Applications Actions Taken, *Public Notice*, File No. ITC-214-20010614-00336, 2001 FCC Lexis 3530 (June 29, 2001).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup>Overseas Common Carrier Section 214 Applications Actions Taken, *Public Nottice*, File No. ITC-97-720, 13 FCC Rcd. 354 (January 9, 1998). Interoute Telecommunications, LLC, the original Section 214 licensee, was merged with a new corporation formed on May 8, 1998 by Interoute Telecommunications, LLC's shareholders known as "Interoute Telecommunications, Inc." The purpose of the merger, which occurred on May 11, 1998, was to change the company's status from a limited liability corporation to a C corporation. Commission authorization for this pro

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February 21, 2002

BY HAND

William F. Caton
Acting Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

Re:

Request for Special Temporary Authority

for the Transfer of Control of Interoute Wholesale, Inc.

from Interoute Telecommunications, Inc. to Venture Telecom, LLC

Dear Mr. Caton:

Venture Telecom, LLC ("Venture"), by its undersigned counsel, and pursuant to Section 214 of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended, 47 U.S.C. § 214, hereby requests expedited Special Temporary Authority ("STA") for the transfer of control of Interoute Wholesale, Inc. ("IWI") from Interoute Telecommunications, Inc. ("Interoute") to Venture. Venture respectfully requests that the Commission grant this STA request as soon as possible.

As detailed in the underlying Application for Consent to Transfer Control ("Application") filed on November 14, 2001 (attached as an Exhibit), Venture is a limited liability company organized under the laws of the State of Delaware, with principal offices located at 3851 Holcomb Bridge Road, Suite 200, Norcross, GA 30092. Information concerning Venture's legal, technical and financial qualifications to provide service was submitted with Venture's application for Section 214 authorization and is therefore already a matter of record before the Commission. Interoute is a privately-held Delaware corporation with principal offices located at 22 Cortlandt Street, 33rd Floor, New York, NY 10007. Information concerning Interoute's legal, technical and financial qualifications to provide service was submitted with Interoute's application for Section 214 authorization and is therefore already a matter of record before the FCC. IWI is a privately-held

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup>Overseas Common Carrier Section 214 Applications Actions Taken, *Public Notice*, File No. ITC-97-720, 13 FCC Rcd. 354 (January 9, 1998). Interoute Telecommunications, LLC, the original Section 214 licensee, was merged with a new corporation formed on May 8, 1998 by Interoute Telecommunications, LLC's shareholders known as "Interoute Telecommunications, Inc." The purpose of the merger, which occurred on May 11, 1998, was to change the company's status from a limited liability corporation to a C corporation. Commission authorization for this pro

William F. Caton February 21, 2002 Page 2

New York corporation with principal offices located at 22 Cortlandt Street, 33<sup>rd</sup> Floor, New York, NY 10037. Information concerning IWI's legal, technical and financial qualifications to provide service was submitted with IWI's application for Section 214 authorization and is therefore already a matter of record before the Commission.<sup>3</sup>

On June 21, 2001, Venture and Interoute entered into a stock purchase agreement ("Agreement") whereby Venture agreed to acquire IWI by purchasing all of the issued and outstanding capital stock from Interoute, the sole shareholder of IWI. The Agreement provided for the sale of 100% of the shares of IWI to Venture on the Agreement's closing date. Closing occurred on September 4, 2001, and Venture is currently the sole shareholder of IWI.

Venture regrets filing its Application on a belated basis and now respectfully requests that the Commission approve its request for STA. Delay in filing the Application was due in part to uncertainty as to when the transaction would close and was exacerbated by the events of September 11th, which completely disrupted Venture's operations due to wide scale losses in connectivity via facilities located within the former World Trade Center as well as other points in New York City. Venture's efforts have been devoted to reestablishing service to all of its customers. However, Venture came forward as soon as practicable to submit its Application and request for STA. Further, Venture voluntarily and openly disclosed, in good faith, the lateness of its Application. Venture assures the Commission that it will, in the future, seek all necessary prior approvals in compliance with Commission rules.

Grant of Venture's request for STA will serve the public interest by facilitating Venture's acquisition of control of IWI. Control of IWI by Venture will promote competition in the telecommunications market by providing Venture with the opportunity to strengthen its competitive position. Venture will be able to increase its size and profitability by acquiring IWI and consumers will benefit through improved service and lower rates. Accordingly, acquisition of IWI by Venture will promote competition in the telecommunications market. Further, a denial of the request for STA could result in the discontinuance of service to customers of IWI, a disruption that would be contrary to the public interest.

For the reasons stated herein, Venture respectfully requests a grant of STA as soon as possible. Venture acknowledges that grant of this request will not prejudice action by the Commission on the underlying transfer of control application and that any authority granted pursuant to this request is subject to cancellation or modification upon notice, but without a hearing.

forma transfer, which did not involve a change in underlying ownership and control, was requested on September 9, 1998.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> In re ATI Telecom, Inc., Public Notice, File No. ITC-95-390, 10 FCC Rcd. 8710 (August 8, 1995); and Overseas Common Carrier Section 214 Applications Actions Taken, Public Notice, File No. ITC-97-589, 12 FCC Rcd. 19542 (November 14, 1997). By letter dated September 28, 2000, ATI Telecom, Inc. changed its name to Interoute Wholesale, Inc. See International Authorizations Granted, Public Notice, File No. ITC-214-19970926-00586, 15 FCC Rcd. 19565, 19568 (October 5, 2000).

William F. Caton February 21, 2002 Page 3

Please find enclosed an original **and six** (6) copies of this filing. Please acknowledge receipt of this filing by file-stamping and returning the extra copy of this filing in the self addressed, stamped envelope provided for this purpose. Should you require further information, please contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

Thomas K. Crowe Misha Gregory Macaw,

Counsel for Venture Telecom, LLC

Attachment (Exhibit)

Enclosures

cc: William Dever, Assistant Chief, Policy & Program Planning Division, Common Carrier Bureau

# **EXHIBIT**

#### LAW OFFICES OF THOMAS K. CROWE, P.C.

2300 M STREET, N.W. SUITE 800 WASHINGTON, D.C. 20037

TELEPHONE (202) 973-2890 FAX (202) 973-2891 E-MAIL firm@tkcrowe.com 21 1420**01** 

November 14, 2001

#### BY COURIER

Federal Communications Commission Common Carrier Bureau - Network Services Division P.O. Box 358145 Pittsburgh, PA 15251-5115

Re: Transfer of Control of Interoute-Wholesale, Inc. to Venture Telecom, LLC

Dear Sir or Madam:

Please find enclosed an original and six (6) copies of Venture Telecom, LLC's ("Venture") and Interoute Telecommunications, Inc.'s Application for Consent to Transfer Control of Interoute Wholesale, Inc. to Venture.

Also enclosed is FCC Form 159 and a check in the amount of \$815.00 to cover the requisite filing fee. Please file-stamp and return the extra copy of this filing in the self-addressed, stamped envelope provided for this purpose.

Ouestions regarding this filing should be directed to the undersigned.

Sincerely,

Thomas K. Crowe

Daron T. Threet,

Counsel for Counsel for Venture Telecom, LLC and Interoute

Telecommunications, Inc.

Enclosures

VENTURE TELECOM, LLC	L BANK
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VENTURE TELECOM LLC

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# Before the FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION Washington, D.C. 20554

In the Matter of	)
VENTURE TELECOM, LLC	)
Transferee,	)
INTEROUTE TELECOMMUNICATIONS, INC.	) ) File No )
Transferor,	)
Application for Authority Pursuant to	) )
Section 214 of the Communications Act	)
of 1934, as amended, to Transfer Control	)
of Authorized Domestic Carrier	· }

## APPLICATION FOR CONSENT TO TRANSFER CONTROL (DOMESTIC)

Pursuant to Section 214 of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended, 47 U.S.C. § 214 (2000), and Section 63.01 of the Commission's Rules, 47 C.F.R. § 63.01 (2000)<sup>1</sup>, Venture Telecom, LLC ("Venture" or "Applicant") and Interoute Telecommunications, Inc. ("Interoute" or "Applicant") hereby request authority to effectuate the transfer of control of Interoute—Wholesale, Inc. ("IWI"), a carrier owned by Interoute, to Venture. Applicants are non-dominant carriers separately authorized by this Commission under blanket authority to provide domestic telecommunications services.

In a Declaratory Ruling and Notice of Proposed Rulemaking released on July 20, 2001, the Commission clarified that non-dominant providers of domestic interstate services must obtain specific Commission authorization before consummating a transaction involving a corporate transfer of control. See In re Implementation of Further Streamlining Measures for Domestic Section 214 Authorizations, Declaratory Ruling and Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, 2001 FCC Lexis 3956, para. 1-7 (2001).

Applicants request approval of this transfer on a <u>nunc pro tune</u> basis.<sup>2</sup> Applicants have contemporaneously filed an application for authority to transfer control of IWI as an authorized international carrier pursuant to Section 214 of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended, 47 U.S.C. § 214 (2000), and Section 63.18 of the Commission's Rules, 47 C.F.R. § 63.18 (2000).

As fully described herein, approval of the transfer will permit Venture and Interoute to realize significant economic and marketing efficiencies which will enhance their ability to continue providing high quality, low cost telecommunications services and to compete more effectively in the telecommunications marketplace. Accordingly, grant of this Application will benefit the public interest.

In support of this Application, the Applicants submit the following information:

## I. THE PARTIES

#### A. Venture Telecom, LLC

Venture is a limited liability company organized under the laws of the State of Delaware. Its principal office is located at 3851 Holcomb Bridge Road, Suite 200, Norcross, Georgia, 30092.

Information concerning Venture's legal, technical and financial qualifications to provide service was submitted with Venture's application for Section 214 authorization and is, therefore,

Applicants regret filing this Application on a belated basis and respectfully request Commission approval. Delay in filing the Application was due in part to uncertainty as to when the transaction would close and was exacerbated by the events of September 11<sup>th</sup>, which completely disrupted Venture's operations due to wide scale losses in connectivity via facilities located within the former World Trade Center as well as other points in New York City. Venture's efforts have been devoted, to this day, to reestablishing service to all of its customers. However, Applicants have come forward as soon as practicable to submit the instant Application. Further, Applicants have, in good faith, voluntarily and openly disclosed the lateness of this Application. A denial of the instant Application would likely result in the discontinuance of service to customers of IWI, a disruption that would not be in the public interest.

already a matter of record before the Commission.3

#### B. Interoute Telecommunications, Inc.

Interoute is a privately-held Delaware corporation whose principal office is located at 22 Cortlandt Street, 33<sup>rd</sup> Floor, New York, New York, 10007.

Information concerning Interoute's legal, technical and financial qualifications to provide service was submitted with Interoute's application for Section 214 authorization and is, therefore, already a matter of record before the Commission.

#### C. Interoute-Wholesale, Inc.

Interoute-Wholesale, Inc. ("IWI") is a privately-held New York corporation whose principal office is located at 22 Cortland Street, 33rd Floor, New York, New York, 10037.

Information concerning IWI's legal, technical and financial qualifications to provide service was submitted with IWI's application for Section 214 authorization and is, therefore, already a matter of record before the Commission.<sup>5</sup>

Overseas Common Carrier Section 214 Applications Actions Taken, *Public Notice*, DA 01-1726, 2001 FCC Lexis 3886 (July 19, 2001); and Overseas Common Carrier Section 214 Applications Actions Taken, *Public Notice*, File No. ITC-214-20010614-00336, 2001 FCC Lexis 3530 (June 29, 2001).

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In re ATI Telecom, Inc., Public Notice; File No. ITC-95-390, 10 FCC Rcd. 8710 (August 8, 1995); and Overseas Common Carrier Section 214 Applications Actions Taken, Public Notice, File No. ITC-97-589, 12 FCC Rcd. 19542 (November 14, 1997).

IWI currently provides wholesale long distance services to retail call centers located in New York, New Jersey, Massachusetts, and Connecticut.

#### II. DESCRIPTION OF TRANSACTION

On June 21, 2001, Venture and Interoute entered into a stock purchase agreement ("Agreement") whereby Venture agreed to acquire IWI by purchasing all of the issued and outstanding capital stock from Interoute, the shareholder of IWI. The Agreement provided for the sale of 100% of the shares of IWI to Venture on the closing date (i.e., September 4, 2001).

Applicants request Commission approval for authority to effectuate this transaction, thereby transferring control of IWI to Venture.

#### III. PUBLIC INTEREST

Consummation of the proposed transaction will serve the public interest in promoting competition in the telecommunications market by providing Venture the opportunity to strengthen its competitive position. Venture will be able to increase its size and profitability by acquiring IWI and allow consumers to benefit through improved services and lower rates. Accordingly, the proposed acquisition promotes competition in the telecommunications market.

#### IV. CONTACT INFORMATION

(a) Names, addresses and telephone numbers of Applicants:

Transferee:

Venture Telecom, LLC 3851 Holcomb Bridge Road Suite 200 Norcross, Georgia 30092 (718) 592-4800

Transferor:

Interoute Telecommunications, Inc.

22 Cortlandt Street 33<sup>rd</sup> Floor New York, New York 10007 (212) 981-9100

Interoute-Wholesale, Inc. 22 Cortlandt Street 33<sup>rd</sup> Floor New York, New York 10007 (212) 981-9100

(b) Correspondence concerning this Application should be sent to:

Thomas K. Crowe
Daron T. Threet
Law Offices of Thomas K. Crowe, P.C.
2300 M Street, N.W., Suite 800
Washington, D.C. 20037
(202) 973-2890

with a copy to:

Syed A. Hasan Venture Telecom LLC 3851 Holcomb Bridge Road, Suite 200 Norcross, GA 30092 (718) 592-4800

and

Susan Cutright Interoute Telecommunications, Inc. 22 Cortlandt Street, 33rd Floor New York, NY 10007 (202) 981-9100

#### V. EXHIBITS

(a) Certifications by Parties that no party to this Application is subject to denial of Federal benefits pursuant to Section 5301 of the Anti-Drug Abuse Act of 1988, 21 U.S.C. § 862:

See exhibit (a).

(b) Copy of stock purchase agreement between Venture Telecom, LLC and

# Interoute Telecommunications, Inc.

See exhibit (b).

# VI. <u>CONCLUSION</u>

For the reasons stated herein, Venture and Interoute respectfully submit that the public interest, convenience and necessity would be furthered by grant of this Application.

Respectfully submitted.

By:\_\_\_

Thomas K. Crowe

Daron T. Threet,

LAW OFFICES OF THOMAS K. CROWE, P.C.

2300 M Street, N.W., Suite 800

Washington, D.C. 20037

(202) 973-2890 Telephone

COUNSEL FOR VENTURE TELECOM, LLC
AND INTEROUTE
TELECOMMUNICATIONS, INC.

November 14, 2001

## CERTIFICATIONS OF VENTURE TELECOM. LLC

On behalf of Venture Telecom, LLC ("Venture") and in accordance with Sections 1.2001-1.2003 of the Commission's Rules, 47 C.F.R. §§ 1.2001-1.2003 (2000), I hereby certify that neither Venture, its officers and directors, or any party with a five percent or greater interest in Venture, is subject to a denial of the Federal benefits requested herein pursuant to Section 5301 of the Anti-Drug Abuse Act of 1988. See 21 U.S.C. § 862 (2000). I also hereby certify that the statements in the foregoing application are true, complete, and correct to the best of my knowledge and are made in good faith.

VENTURE	TELECOM, LLC
By:	
Name:	BRUCE READ
Title:	HANAGING MEHBER
Date:	DOVEMBER 1, 2001

Page 26/38

RECEIVED

CERTIFICATIONS OF INTEROUTE TELECOMMUNICATIONS

On behalf of Interoute Telecommunications, Inc. ("Interoute") and in accordance With posentions 1.2001-1.2003 of the Commission's Rules, 47 C.F.R. §§ 1.2001-1.2003 (2000), I hereby certify that neither Interoute, its officers and directors, or any party with a five percent or greater interest in Interoute, is subject to a denial of the Federal benefits requested herein pursuant to Section 5301 of the Anti-Drug Abuse Act of 1988. See 21 U.S.C. § 862 (2000). I also hereby certify that the statements in the foregoing application are true, complete, and correct to the best of my knowledge and are made in good faith.

## INTEROUTE TELECOMMUNICATIONS, INC.

Ву	Suran Compet
Name:	SUBAN' CUTRICHT
Title.	LECAL AFTHIRS
Date	19 OCT 01

#### **CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I, Hilary Taylor, a legal assistant with the Law Offices of Thomas K. Crowe, P.C., certify that on November 14, 2001, a copy of the foregoing Application was served by first class U.S. mail, postage prepaid, on the parties listed below.

Michelle Carey
Chief, Policy and Program Planning Division
Common Carrier Bureau
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Room 5-C122
Washington, D.C. 20554

Nandan Joshi
Office of General Counsel
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th-Street, S.W.
Room 8-A820
Washington, D.C. 20554

Aaron Goldberger
Policy and Program Planning Division
Common Carrier Bureau
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Room 5-A266
Washington, D.C. 20554

Qualex International Portals II 445 12th Street, S.W., Room CY-B402 Washington, D.C. 20554 William Dever
Assistant Chief, Policy and
Program Planning Division
Common Carrier Bureau
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Room 5-C266
Washington, D.C. 20554

Magalie Roman Salas Secretary Federal Communications Commission 445 12th Street, S.W. Room TW-B204 Washington, D.C. 20554

Tracey L. Wilson
Policy and Program Planning Division
Common Carrier Bureau
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Room 5-C207
Washington, D.C. 20554

Hilary Taylor

#### LAW OFFICES OF THOMAS K. CROWE, P.C.

February 21, 2002

### PLEASE DELIVER THE ATTACHED TO THE FOLLOWING:

William Dever
Assistant Chief, Policy and Program Planning Division
Common Carrier Bureau
Federal Communications Commission
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

If there are any problems with this delivery, please contact Hilary Taylor at (202) 973-6466.

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FEB 2 1 2002

Federal Communication Commission Bureau/Office